CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A video recording and playback system comprising:

2   (a)   a video recorder/player having a record mode, a play mode and a fast

3   scan mode;

4   (b)   a recording medium for insertion into the video recorder/player so as to

5   record a video signal thereon in the record mode and play the video signal recorded

6   thereon in the play mode, said video signal including program material of first and

7   second categories;

8   (c)   event detection means for detecting events within the video signal;

9   (d)   means for marking the recording medium with a first type of mark in

10   proximity to a respective event recorded on the recording medium;

11   (e)   a data memory for storing times of occurrence of the events detected in

12   the record mode;

13   (f)   means for analyzing the events to classify segments of the video signal

14   as containing program material of one of the first category and second category;

15   (g)   means for positioning the recording medium to beginning and ending

16   positions of each segment of the video signal classified as containing program

17   material of the second category;

18   (h)   means for marking the recording medium with a second type of mark in

19   predetermined relationship to a corresponding first type of mark at each of said

20   beginning positions and with a third type of mark in predetermined relationship to a

21   corresponding first type of mark at each of said ending positions.

1   2.   The system of claim 1 further comprising:

2   mark detection means for detecting the second and third types of marks;

3   control means for causing the video recorder/player to enter the fast scan

4   mode when the second type of mark is detected and for causing the video recorder/

5   player to enter the play mode when the third type of mark is detected.

1   3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the means for marking the recording

2   medium with a first type of mark comprises a recording head for a video sync control

3   signal.

1   4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the means for marking the recording

2   medium with a second and third type of mark comprises a recording head for a video

3   sync control signal.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the recording medium is a video tape.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein the recording medium is a magnetic disk.

7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the recording medium is an optical disk.

1   8.   A video-recording method comprising the steps of:

2   (a)   recording a video signal on a recording medium;

3   (b)   monitoring the video signal as it is recorded to detect events therein;

4   (c)   marking the recording medium with a first type of mark in proximity to a

5   respective event recorded on the recording medium;

6   (d)   storing data representative of a time of occurrence of each event;

7   (e)   analyzing the data to classify segments of the video signal between

8   events as one of a first and second category;

9   (f)   positioning the recording medium to beginning and ending positions of

10   each segment of the video signal classified as the second category;

11   (g)   marking the recording medium with a second type of mark in

12   predetermined relationship to a corresponding first type of mark at each of said

13   beginning positions;

14   (h)   marking the recording medium with a third type of mark in predetermined

15   relationship to a corresponding first type of mark at each of said ending positions.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the recording medium is a video tape.

1   10.   The method of claim 8 wherein the recording medium is a magnetic disk.

1   11.   The method of claim 8 wherein the recording medium is an optical disk.

1   12.   The method of claim 8 wherein the first type of mark is recorded on a

2   video sync control track.

1   13.   The method of claim 8 wherein the second and third types of mark are

2   recorded on a video sync control track.

1   14.   The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

2   replaying the recorded video signal;

3   playing the segments of the video signal classified as the first category at

4   normal speed; and

5   rapidly scanning through the segments of the video signal classified as

6   the second category.

1   15.   A method of processing a video signal recorded on a recording medium

2   comprising the steps of:

3   (a)   replaying the recorded video signal to detect events therein;

4   (b)   marking the recording medium with a first type of mark in proximity to a

5   respective event recorded on the recording medium;

6   (c)   storing data representative of a time of occurrence of each event;

7   (d)   analyzing the data to classify segments of the video signal between

8   events as one of a first and second category;

9   (e)   positioning the recording medium to beginning and ending positions of

10   each segment of the video signal classified as the second category;

11   (f)   marking the recording medium with a second type of mark in

12   predetermined relationship to a corresponding first type of mark at each of said

13   beginning positions;

14   (g)   marking the recording medium with a third type of mark in predetermined

15   relationship to a corresponding first type of mark at each of said ending positions.

1   16.   A method of cueing a pre-recorded video tape to a desired segment

2   comprising the steps of:

3   (a)   rewinding the tape to the beginning of the tape;

4   (b)   advancing the tape;

5   (c)   monitoring the video signal recorded on the tape as it is advanced to

6   detect events therein;

7   (d)   storing data representative of a time of occurrence of each event;

8   (e)   analyzing the data to classify one such event as marking the beginning of

9   the desired segment; and;

10   (f)   rewinding the tape to said event classified as marking the beginning of

11   the desired segment.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the step of analyzing comprises

2   determining if a predetermined period of time has elapsed since a last detected event.

1   18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the tape is advanced at a speed higher

2   than a normal play speed.

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